**     *Our vision: at Falla Hill we will work together to be the best that we can be. We will***

***challenge ourselves, be brave and make learning happen.***

***Falla Hill Primary School***

***August 18 Newsletter***

***Welcome back!***

 *I hope you all had a fantastic break and are ready for the busy term ahead!*

*Our pupils have returned to school smart in their uniform, enthusiastic and ready to learn. Our P1’s and new nursery children have settled well and are looking forward to learning and playing together.*

***Staffing news***

*School*

*This year we welcome Mrs Claire Howley, in Primary 5 and Mrs Jen Linejs, sharing Primary 1 with Mrs Hunter. Miss Main, previously a pupil support worker in the nursery class, will now be a pupil support worker in the school. We also have a third year student Lisa Mackie from Edinburgh University.*

*Nursery*

*As part of the Scottish Government Early years’ expansion we also have two new members of staff in our nursery class. This year we welcome Early Years Officer Miss Katie Callaghan and Nursery Nurse Miss Megan Nisbet.*

*I am sure you will join me in wishing them all the best at Falla Hill.*

***Uniform ***

*Uniform is an important part of our ethos at Falla Hill as it helps to create a sense of belonging, identity and community. I would really appreciate your support with this throughout the school session.*

*Please speak to Mrs Harkins or Mrs Webster in the school office if you need to purchase polo shirts, fleeces, ties or sweatshirts. School trousers and skirts can be purchased in leading supermarkets.*

***Free school meal entitlement/uniform allowance***

*Please use the following link to check if you are entitled to free school meals or uniform allowance.*

<https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/3787/Free-School-Meal>.

***PE Kit***

*In order for your child to get the most out of PE, it is important that he/she dresses appropriately for participation in class. Please bring an additional t-shirt and either shorts or jogging bottoms for your child to change into for the lesson.  For your child’s safety, please make sure that proper footwear and socks are worn on PE days. Proper footwear is athletic-type tennis shoes with a non-marking, flat bottom or indoor school shoes. Black soled shoes are not permitted as they mark the gym floor and marks cannot be removed.*

*Over the next two weeks we will send out a* ***l****etter to gauge how many families would like the option of purchasing black gym rubbers from the school. If there is sufficient interest then I will take this forward.*

***School Milk***

*Towards the end of each term 3-4 weeks is allocated for payment of milk on ipay impact for the following term. Please ensure that milk is paid within this period otherwise milk cannot be given to your child during the first week of the new term. This change is due to the arrangements for ordering and paying for milk. Your help with this is much appreciated.*

***Tree of knowledge***

*This term we will be using part of our Pupil Equity Funding to provide enterprise workshops for P5, 6 and 7. The focus will be to engage pupils in an enterprising manufacturing challenge to develop skills for life, work and learning; one of our school priorities.*

***Sponsor event***

*Our annual sponsor event will take place week beginning 10th September. This year we are going to have a sponsored read/story telling as this fits in with our school priority of establishing a whole school reading culture.*

*All money raised will help to subsidise the class excursions which the children go on during the school year.*

***Building works ***

*Over the summer work was completed on the nursery railing and our new school library.*

**Library**

*Now that the work is finished we are looking for volunteers to help get our library up and running. All of our books need to be recorded, labelled and organised before the pupils can start to access them.*

*Look out for a group call**this week**requesting help, the more the merrier! All volunteers need to have a PVG please pop in to the office and collect the forms if you would like to help and do not have a PVG.*

*The sooner we have this up and running the quicker our children can start to make use of the new library and help us on our way to achieving our whole school reading culture.*

***Road Safety ![C:\Users\anne.pettit\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\TIP5FIM3\brownie_road_safety[1].gif]()***

*In order to ensure the safety of all our pupils can I remind you that WLC request that parents do not park close to the school gates. Following this guidance will help pupils to see more clearly when crossing the road.*

*Can I also remind you that pupils should not walk through, be dropped off or picked up from the school car park. Many of you will remember that an adult was struck by a vehicle last session therefore it is imperative that children do not enter or exit the school grounds via the car park.*

*Thank you for your cooperation with this.*

*I met with a senior engineer from the road safety management and traffic team on Wednesday last week and there are plans underway for the road outside the school to become a mandatory 20mph zone. New signage and road markings will be put in place. The time scale for this is unknown at present as the plans still have to go to committee.*

***Head Lice***

*An information leaflet for parents and carers is on Ipay Impact and the school blog. If you would like a paper copy please contact the school office. Please be vigilant in checking your child’s hair. Thank you for supporting us with this.*

***Nut allergy***

*Some of our pupils have a slight allergy to nuts. If possible can children please bring an alternative snack to nuts for break time?*

***Health care***

*If you have health care forms at home can these please be returned to the school as soon as possible. If you have any concerns regarding your child’s health can you please contact Mrs Hunter our Principal Teacher (acting).*

***End of year parent survey***

*I have attached a copy of the pie charts generated from our end of year survey. Thank you to everyone who took the time to respond. This information is invaluable in ensuring the best quality of education for your children.*

*I have also included some of your comments below.*

You said: My son feels happy & safe at school. Staff are friendly & welcoming. Any issues are dealt with fully, with care & consideration. Communication is clear & valuable. Class Dojo is useful & newsletters are regular.

**Response: We really appreciate your positive feedback; we will continue to work hard at supporting you and your child.**

You said: More feedback on how my child is doing in class other than just waiting for a parents evening.

**Response: Please contact myself, Mrs Hunter or your child’s teacher if you would like some feedback before parents’ night.**

You said: I would like to see more parent involvement in activities, any parent who are looking to get involved

The nursery staff care about all the kids as individuals and the homework folders have been brilliant in helping my son with his numbers, letters etc. Good to prepare for homework in p1 next year. It would be good if we could have more notice for school events such as special assemblies etc. Had one weeks’ notice for the transition assembly which is just not feasible when working.

**Response: There are many ways in which you can get involved in the school. Please pop into the office for PVG forms if you would like to volunteer and note below the information on the parent council meetings.**

**This week we are also looking for help to label our library books. I will also be sending out a letter in due course to find out the types of activities you would like to be involved in or find out about. This will allow us to arrange events that are suitable for you and your child.**

**In term 3 we will also be starting to plan for our gala day; the dates of the meetings will be in our newsletters.**

**School trips also require a high number of volunteers particularly for younger children however a PVG is required. The office can assist with this; any help is very much appreciated.**

**We really appreciate your positive feedback on our nursery; we will continue to work hard at supporting you and your child.**

**We do try to give us much forward notice as we understand arrangements have to be made particularly for working parents.**

The school is moving in the right direction and a key strength for me is definitely staff effort and attitude. I would like to see more advanced learning support and a new school building with better facilities.

**Response: We really appreciate your positive feedback; we will continue to work hard at supporting you and your child.**

**For the first time last year we had a full time support for learning co-ordinator, Mrs Wells, working from Nursery-P7. This early intervention will make a difference to our pupils’ learning and achievement as they move through the school. We also have additional staff in the nursery this year to take forward early intervention strategies for our youngest pupils.**

**As a staff we work hard at making the school and the nursery a welcoming and stimulating learning environment and will continue to do so. Last session saw the opening of the Falla Hill families’ room, increased use of the partnership centre to build community and new furniture throughout the nursery.**

**This year we will have the launch of our new school library. In addition staff will continue to develop play based learning in P1-P3 and increased opportunities to apply learning in P4-P7.**

*As only 19 families responded to the survey I would be interested to know if there is another way you would like this to be sent out to ensure that we capture the views of as many of you as possible. If so please comment on the sheet at the end of the newsletter.*

***The McMillan Coffee morning***

*This year our McMillan coffee morning will be held on Friday 28th September from 9am-10-20am with all proceeds going to McMillan Cancer Support.*

*During the first part of the morning Primary 7 will speak to you about our vision, values and curriculum at Falla Hill. In the second half of the morning you will be able to visit your child’s class and ‘meet the learning.’*

*Please come along and help to raise money for McMillan Cancer Support and visit your child in class.*

***Parental engagement/family learning***

*There is strong research evidence showing the positive difference it makes when parents and other family members get involved in a child’s education. Throughout the school year we will be offering a range of ways you will be able to get involved in the school. This may be family learning to support your child’s learning, volunteering in school or supporting our vertical groups.*

*To ensure that the school is providing the things you are looking for I will shortly be sending out a questionnaire to gather this information.*

***Access to sanitary products in school.***

Sanitary products are now readily available in the upper school girls’ toilet.

This is a Scottish government initiative as there is some evidence to suggest that more than a quarter of people in education have struggled at some point in the previous year to access sanitary products. We know, too, that some girls and young women have had to miss school or skip classes because they didn’t have access to products. Further information can be found at  [www.young.scot/periods](http://www.young.scot/periods).

***Vertical groups***

*All staff and pupils will be signing up for a group activity this session. The aim of this is to involve everyone in the wider life of the school, develop leadership skills and pupil voice. I would also like to invite parents to be part of these groups. Further information will follow when our groups and registers are established.*

***Screen time***

*This month I have included ‘top tips’ to help you manage children’s screen time. I hope you find this useful.*

***Parent council***

*Our parent council are a fantastic support to our school and this year they are raising money to help us move forward with one of our school priorities: digital literacy.*

*The members of the parent council meet once per month in the school to discuss and share ideas of how they can raise funds or support the school in other ways. It would be great if you could join us at these meetings; the dates are always in the newsletter. Please come and along and see if you can get involved.*

*Anne Pettit*

*Head Teacher*

***Dates for your diary***

 **PLEASE NOTE I HAVE NOT INCULDED CHRISTMAS SHOW DATES AS THE DATE FOR THE SANTA PARADE HAS NOT YET BEEN AGREED BY WLC. ONCE THIS HAS BEEN DECIDED I WILL LET YOU KNOW OUR DATES. DATES FOR OTHER SCHOOL EVENTS WILL BE ADDED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, PLEASE CHECK THE NEWSLETTER EACH MONTH.**

 

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| --- | --- |
| Parent council meeting | Tuesday 28th August 6-7.30pm |
| P1 photograph for West Lothian Courier | Tuesday 28th August |
| Photographer in school: individual and family groups.  | Wednesday 29th August  |
| Magic Show organised by parent council. **More information to follow from parent council** | Tuesday 11th September 3.30-4.30pm |
| NSPCC whole school visit | Thursday 13th September |
| September holiday | Monday 17th September |
| In-service day –**staff only** | Tuesday 18th September |
| Parent council meeting | Wednesday 26th September 6-7.30pm |
| McMillan Coffee morning  | Friday 28th September 9am-10am |
| Parent consultations | Monday 1st October  **tbc** |
| Parent consultations | Tuesday 2nd October  **tbc** |
| Tree of knowledge working with P5 | Thursday 4th October |
| Tree of knowledge working with P6 | Wednesday 10th October |
| Tree of knowledge working with P7 | Thursday 11th October |
| End of term | Friday 12th October |
| In-service day- **staff only** | Monday 22nd October  |
| All resume  | Tuesday 23rd October |
| Parent council meeting | Tuesday 23rd October 6-7.30pm |
| Hallowe’en disco | Thursday 25th October. P1-3 4-5.30pm P4-P7 5.45-7.15pm. |
| Child smile | 29th, 30th and 31st October |
| Parent council meeting | Wednesday 14th November 6-7.30pm |
| Christmas fair | Friday 7th December 9am-10am |
| Nursery Nativities am and pm | Tuesday 11th December times tbc |
| P3-5 Christmas parties | Monday 17th December 1.15-3pm |
| P6 & 7 Christmas disco | Monday 17th December 5.30-7.30pm |
| Nursery Christmas parties am and pm | Wednesday 19th December with special visitor-times tbc |
| P1-P2 Christmas party | Wednesday 19th December 1.15-3pm with special visitor (time tbc) |
| End of term and Christmas service in the church. | Friday 21st DecemberChurch service: 9.30am |
| All resume | Monday 7th January 2019 |
| P7 at the risk factory | Thursday 31st January |
| Health week | Monday 1st April-Friday 5th April |
| Parents’ consultations | Wednesday 3rd April \*\*\* |
| Parents’ consultations | Thursday 4th April\*\*\* |
| End of term and Easter service in the church | Friday 5th April. Church service: 9.30am |
| All resume | **Tuesday** 23rd April  |
| P7 camp at Kingswood | Monday 13th May – Friday 17th May |
| P5 camp at Lowport | Monday 3rd June-Wednesday 5th Jne |
| P7 leavers’ assembly | Friday 21st June 9am |
| End of term | Friday 28th June  |

Comment slip (this can be anonymous if you prefer)

Pupil’s name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please feel free to comment on any item in the newsletter or anything else regarding the school. We always value your feedback on how we can improve.

*wlfallahill-ps@westlothian.org.uk*

Comments: